

PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

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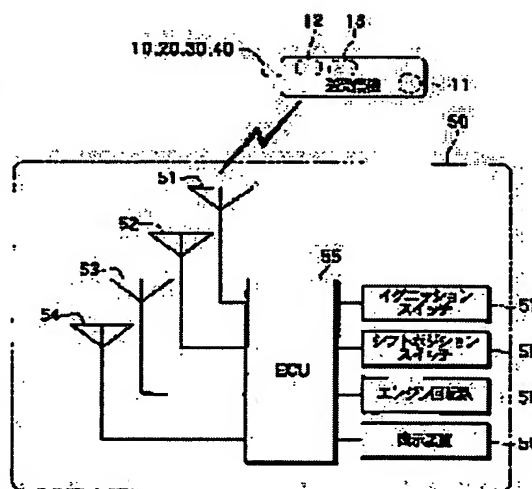
(54) TIRE AIR PRESSURE MONITORING SYSTEM FOR VEHICLE

(57)Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To prolong the life of internal batteries of transmitter receivers buried in tires and to prevent the transmitter receivers installed by the tires from overlapping a transmission timing.

SOLUTION: The transmitter receivers 10, 20, 30, and 40 which each measure the air pressure and temperature in a tire and send their data by a radio wave are installed in the tires of a vehicle and a monitor device 50 which monitors the air pressure of each tire by receiving the transmitted data is provided on the vehicle body side; and the monitor device 50 sends an operation start signal and an operation stop signal to the transmitter receivers 10, 20, 30, and 40 at the start and end of the driving of the vehicle and

the respective detecting devices 10, 20, 30, and 40 each have an internal battery 11 as its power source, start operating on receiving the operation start signal and transmit data in the data transmission timing set on the basis of the timing of the operation start, and then stop operating on receiving the operation stop signal.



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CLAIMS

[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1] The detection equipment (10, 20, 30, 40) which detects the pneumatic pressure of a tire at least and transmits the data through radio is installed in each tire of a car. In the tire-pressure monitoring system for cars with which it comes to prepare the supervisory equipment (50) which receives said transmitted data and supervises the pneumatic pressure of each tire in a car-body side said supervisory equipment (50) While transmitting the seizing signal of operation which carry out starting of said each detection equipment (10, 20, 30, 40) of operation all at once at the time of the start up of a car The stop signal of operation which carry out a halt of said each detection equipment (10, 20, 30, 40) of operation all at once is transmitted at the time of operation termination of a car. Said each detection equipment (10, 20, 30, 40) If said seizing signal of operation is received by using a built-in cell (11) as a power source, starting of operation will be carried out. Tire-pressure monitoring system for cars characterized by carrying out a halt of operation if said data are transmitted by the data transmit timing set up on the basis of the timing of this starting of operation and said stop signal of operation is received.

[Claim 2] Said each detection equipment (10, 20, 30, 40) is tire-pressure monitoring system for cars according to claim 1 characterized by setting up said data transmit timing at spacing longer than spacing which carries out an intermittent control action at the time of actuation, and detects pneumatic pressure of said tire.

[Claim 3] Said each detection equipment (10, 20, 30, 40) is tire-pressure monitoring system for cars according to claim 1 or 2 characterized by shortening data transmit timing, when it judges that the pneumatic pressure of said detected tire is unusual.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention] This invention relates to the tire-pressure monitoring system which supervises the pneumatic pressure of each tire in a car.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art] If the supervisory equipment which installed the detection equipment which detects the pneumatic pressure and internal temperature of a tire, and transmits the data through radio in each tire of a car, and installed the transmitted data in the car-body side receives and the abnormalities of a tire are detected conventionally, the tire-pressure monitoring system which emitted warning is variously proposed by the user (for example, JP,8-244424,A, JP,9-30220,A).

[0003] In the conventional tire-pressure monitoring system, the data detected from the detection equipment installed in each tire are periodically transmitted to supervisory equipment. When the data transmit timing of each detection equipment laps at this time, the case where data are normally unreceivable by the supervisory equipment side may arise. If data transmit timing laps, since data will once be transmitted at a certain fixed spacing, data transmit timing will lap each time and the rate of reception of the data in supervisory equipment falls [next time or subsequent ones] extremely.

[0004] In JP,9-30220,A, the data which detected the tire pressure periodically and detected it using the timer are periodically transmitted to a receiver (supervisory equipment), spacing of the timer is shifted for every tire, and what prevented the interference for every tire is indicated. However, if data transmit timing shifts cumulatively according to the error of the oscillation frequency for generating the time amount of a timer etc., data transmitting spacing laps and any may interfere.

[0005] Moreover, when it is made to make it operate by the cell having the detection equipment installed in each tire, in this kind of tire-pressure monitoring system, it is necessary to reduce power consumption and to lengthen a battery life.

[0006] Although what carries out the monitor of the tire pressure periodically using a timer is indicated by above-mentioned JP,9-30220,A, in this thing, it is inadequate in that the monitor of the tire pressure will be carried out even if it is the case where there is no car in operational status, and a battery life is lengthened.

[0007] This invention is what took the example by the above-mentioned problem, and it aims at making it the data transmit timing of the detection equipment which lengthened the life of the cell built in detection equipment, and was installed for every tire not lap.

[0008]

[Means for Solving the Problem] In order to attain the above-mentioned purpose, in invention according to claim 1 The detection equipment (10, 20, 30, 40) which detects the pneumatic pressure of a tire at least and transmits the data through radio is installed in each tire of a car. In the tire-pressure monitoring system for cars with which it comes to prepare the supervisory equipment (50) which receives the transmitted data and supervises the pneumatic pressure of each tire in a car-body side supervisory equipment (50) While transmitting the seizing signal of operation which carry out starting of each detection equipment (10, 20, 30, 40) of operation all at once at the time of the start up of a car The stop signal of operation which carry out a halt of each detection equipment (10, 20, 30, 40) of operation all at once is transmitted at the time of operation termination of a car. Each

detection equipment (10, 20, 30, 40) If a seizing signal of operation is received by using a built-in cell (11) as a power source, starting of operation will be carried out. If data are transmitted by the data transmit timing set up on the basis of the timing of this starting of operation and a stop signal of operation is received, it is characterized by carrying out a halt of operation.

[0009] The seizing signal of operation which is transmitted from supervisory equipment (50) at the time of operation termination at the time of the start up of a car according to this invention, Each detection equipments (10, 20, 30, 40) all at once with a stop signal of operation Starting of operation, Since it is made to carry out a halt of operation, the life of the cell (11) built in detection equipment (10, 20, 30, 40) can be lengthened. Moreover, since it is made to transmit data by the data transmit timing set up on the basis of the timing of starting of operation A cumulative gap of data transmit timing can be prevented and it can prevent that the data transmit timing of each detection equipment (10, 20, 30, 40) laps.

[0010] Moreover, like invention according to claim 2, each detection equipment (10, 20, 30, 40) carries out an intermittent control action, and if data transmit timing is set up at spacing longer than spacing which detects pneumatic pressure of a tire, the life of a built-in cell (11) can be lengthened more.

[0011] Moreover, if the abnormalities of the pneumatic pressure of the detected tire are judged like invention according to claim 3 and it will be made to shorten data transmit timing, supervisory equipment (50) can be told about the abnormality early and certainly.

[0012] In addition, the sign in the parenthesis of each above-mentioned means shows correspondence relation with the concrete means of a publication to the operation gestalt mentioned later.

[0013]

[Embodiment of the Invention] The bill of materials of the tire-pressure monitoring system for cars applied to 1 operation gestalt of this invention at drawing 1 is shown, and the condition of having carried each component in drawing 2 R> 2 at the car is shown.

[0014] As shown in drawing 2, the transmitter-receivers (means of communications of the flush type in an electric-wave type tire) 10, 20, 30, and 40 as detection equipment which supervises the pneumatic pressure and internal temperature of a tire, and transmits data through radio are installed in the interior of four tires, respectively, and the supervisory equipment 50 which receives the data transmitted from each transmitter-receiver, and supervises the pneumatic pressure of each tire and temperature is installed in the car-body side.

[0015] As shown in drawing 1, each of transmitter-receivers 10, 20, 30, and 40 uses the built-in cell 11 as a power source, and transmits the data which detected the pressure in a tire, and temperature with the pressure sensor 12 and the temperature sensor 13 (measurement), and were measured by the set-up transmit timing to supervisory equipment 50.

[0016] Moreover, if the seizing signal of operation transmitted from supervisory equipment 50 is received, starting of operation will be carried out, each of transmitter-receivers 10, 20, 30, and 40 performs intermittently actuation which performs measurement of the pressure in a tire, and temperature, and transmission of measurement data, and if the stop signal of operation transmitted from supervisory equipment 50 is received, it will carry out a halt of operation. In addition, the actuation (function) which the above-mentioned actuation measures the pressure in a tire and temperature, and transmits the measurement data is said, and only detection of whether the seizing signal of operation was received from supervisory equipment 50 is intermittently performed during a halt of operation.

[0017] The antennas 51, 52, 53, and 54 which receive the data with which supervisory equipment 50 is transmitted from transmitter-receivers 10, 20, 30, and 40, If it judges that the condition of each tire is supervised based on the received data, and abnormalities, such as an air failure, an abnormality change in pneumatic pressure, or an abnormality rise of whenever [tire internal temperature], are in one of tires It has the controller (henceforth ECU) 55 which outputs an abnormality status signal, and the display 56 which performs the display which tells a user about abnormalities in response to the abnormality status signal from this ECU55. Moreover, ECU55 performs whether reception of data and the abnormality judging based on it are performed during operation of a car, and a car is in operational status based on an ignition switch 57, a shift position switch 58, and the signal from an

engine speed sensor 59.

[0018] Processing of ECU55 is shown in drawing 3. ECU55 judges whether based on the ignition switch 57, the shift position switch 58, and the signal from an engine speed sensor 59, the car would be in operational status (S110). If it judges that the car would be in operational status, a seizing signal of operation will be transmitted to transmitter-receivers 10, 20, 30, and 40 (S120), the data transmitted from transmitter-receivers 10, 20, 30, and 40 are received after this, and the condition of each tire will be supervised based on the received data, and if it judges that abnormalities are in one of tires, an abnormality status signal will be outputted to a display 56 (S150).

[0019] Moreover, it judges whether based on the ignition switch 57, the shift position switch 58, and the signal from an engine speed sensor 59, the car would be in operation exit status during the transmit data reception standby from transmitter-receivers 10, 20, 30, and 40 (S120). If it judges that the car would be in operation exit status, a stop signal of operation is transmitted to transmitter-receivers 10, 20, 30, and 40 (S130), and an intermittent control action will be performed until a car will be in operational status again. Consumption of the dc-battery of a car can be suppressed by this.

[0020] Each of transmitter-receivers 10, 20, 30, and 40 has computer means (not shown to drawing 1), such as a microcomputer which operates in response to current supply from the built-in cell 11, and performs processing shown in drawing 4. This processing is intermittently performed, in order to suppress consumption of the built-in cell 11 (S200). As this intermittent control action, the intermittent control action at the time of the standby condition of a seizing signal of operation (S210) and the intermittent control action at the time of the standby condition of a factor of operation (S220) occur.

[0021] It is judged in the standby condition of a seizing signal of operation whether the seizing signal of operation transmitted from supervisory equipment 50 was received (S230). If having received the seizing signal of operation is judged, it will shift to the actuation which performs collection (S250) of a pressure sensor 12, the pressure data based on the signal from a temperature sensor 13, and temperature data, and transmission (260 S 270) of the data. That is, starting of operation is carried out. In this case, starting of operation of all the transmitter-receivers 10, 20, 30, and 40 is carried out all at once.

[0022] Moreover, although not shown in processing in drawing 4, data transmit timing is set up on the basis of the timing which carried out starting of operation. This data transmit timing is set up so that the data transmit timing of each transmitter-receiver may not lap. From transmitters 10, 20, 30, and 40, data are repeatedly transmitted according to the priority of the data transmission defined beforehand at fixed spacing. By ECU55, the data from all transmitter-receivers are certainly receivable with a setup of such transmit timing. Moreover, since data transmit timing is set up to the timing of starting of operation, it can prevent that data transmit timing shifts cumulatively according to the error of the oscillation frequency used for actuation of a transmitter-receiver etc., and can prevent certainly that the data transmit timing of each transmitter-receiver laps.

[0023] After starting of operation will be in a factor standby condition of operation in the above-mentioned intermittent control action (S200) (S220). This factor of operation is data collection timing, data transmit timing, and stop signal reception of operation. Data transmit timing is set up at spacing longer than data collection timing. Moreover, a judgment of that the data transmit timing has unusual pneumatic pressure of the collected tires and internal temperature also sets up a twist short till then.

[0024] Although shown in the processing shown in drawing 4 in a form in which collection (S250) of data and transmission (S260, S270) of data are processed in serial, when data collection timing and data transmit timing are judged at a factor judging step (S240) of operation, it performs according to an individual, respectively. Therefore, collection of data is performed a period short in comparison, and transmission of data is performed a period longer than it. Moreover, if a tire pressure and internal temperature become unusual, data will be continuously transmitted to short timing. By this, supervisory equipment 50 can be told about abnormalities early and certainly.

[0025] Moreover, if the factor of stop signal reception of operation of operation is judged at a factor judging step (S240) of operation, it will be judged whether the stop signal of operation transmitted from supervisory equipment 50 was received. having received the stop signal of operation judges -- having (the judgment of S280 being set to YES) -- it shifts to the intermittent control action at the

time of the standby condition of a seizing signal of operation (S210) as a halt of operation. In this case, a halt of operation of all the transmitter-receivers 10, 20, 30, and 40 is carried out all at once. [0026] Thus, with the seizing signal of operation and the stop signal of operation which are transmitted from supervisory equipment 50, since each transmitter-receiver is performing starting of operation and a halt of operation, it can reduce consumption of the built-in cell 11. Moreover, the data of a tire pressure and internal temperature are collected every dozens of seconds, and in the condition other than the time of collection, if the data which performed and collected intermittent control actions are normal and it will be made to make transmit timing into every dozens of minutes, consumption of a cell 11 can be reduced more.

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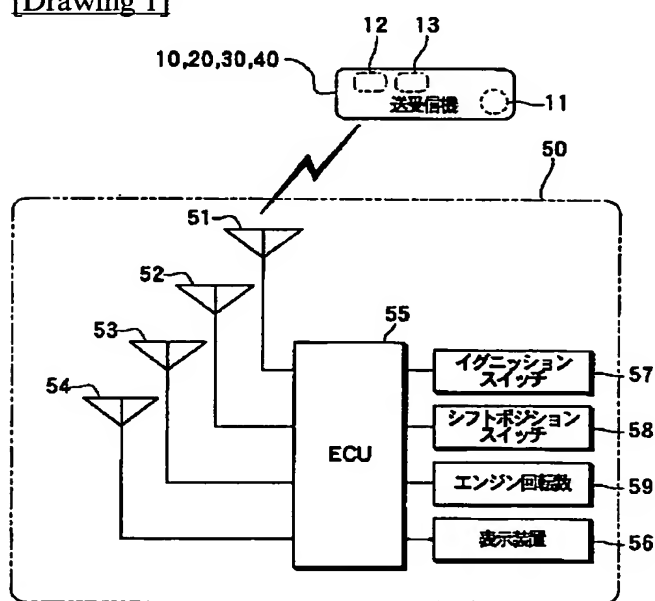
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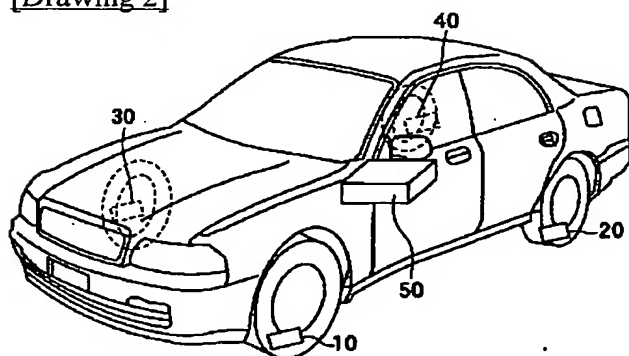
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DRAWINGS

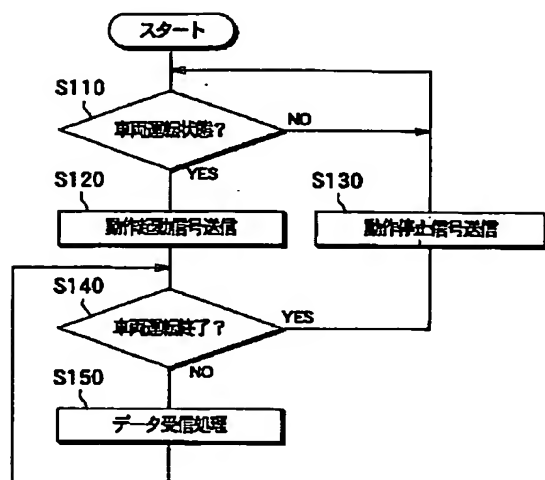
[Drawing 1]



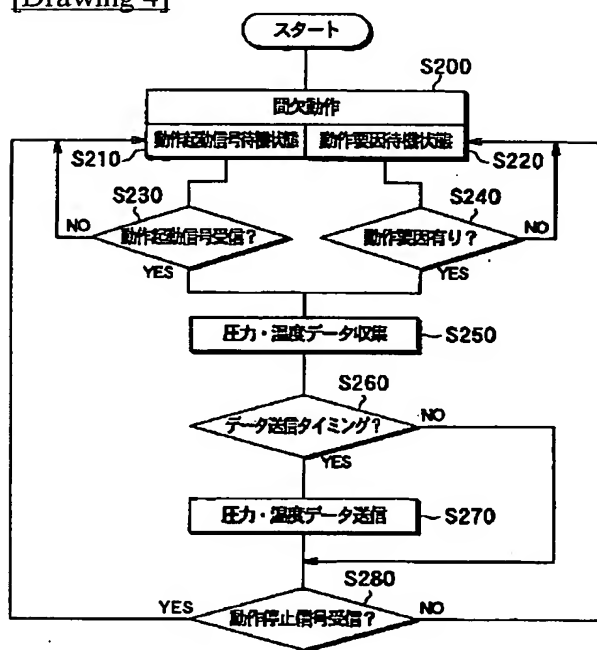
[Drawing 2]



[Drawing 3]



[Drawing 4]



[Translation done.]

(19)



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**(54) TIRE AIR PRESSURE MONITORING SYSTEM
FOR VEHICLE**

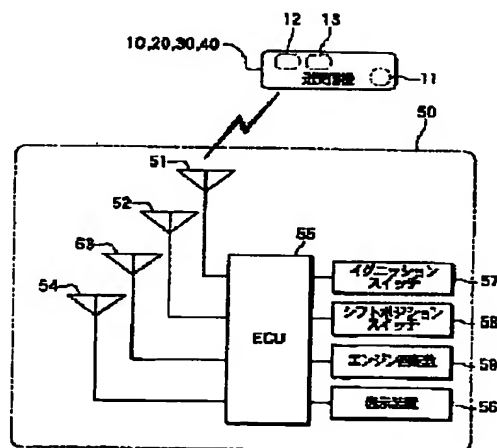
(57) Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To prolong the life of internal batteries of transmitter receivers buried in tires and to prevent the transmitter receivers installed by the tires from overlapping a transmission timing.

SOLUTION: The transmitter receivers 10, 20, 30, and 40 which each measure the air pressure and temperature in a tire and send their data by a radio wave are installed in the tires of a vehicle and a monitor device 50 which monitors the air pressure of each tire by receiving the transmitted data is provided on the vehicle body side; and the monitor device 50 sends an operation start signal and an operation stop signal to the transmitter receivers 10, 20, 30, and 40 at the start and end of the driving of the vehicle and the respective detecting devices 10, 20, 30, and 40 each have an internal battery 11 as its power source, start operating on receiving the operation start signal and transmit data in the data transmission timing set on the

basis of the timing of the operation start, and then stop operating on receiving the operation stop signal.

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【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項 1】 少なくともタイヤの空気圧を検出してそのデータを電波で送信する検出装置（10、20、30、40）が車両の各タイヤに設置され、前記送信されたデータを受信して各タイヤの空気圧を監視する監視装置（50）が車体側に設けられてなる車両用タイヤ空気圧監視システムにおいて、

前記監視装置（50）は、車両の運転開始時に前記各検出装置（10、20、30、40）を一斉に動作起動させる動作起動信号を送信するとともに、車両の運転終了時に前記各検出装置（10、20、30、40）を一斉に動作停止させる動作停止信号を送信するようになっており、

前記各検出装置（10、20、30、40）は、内蔵電池（11）を電源とするものであって、前記動作起動信号を受信すると動作起動し、この動作起動のタイミングを基準にして設定されたデータ送信タイミングで前記データの送信を行い、また前記動作停止信号を受信すると動作停止するようになっていることを特徴とする車両用タイヤ空気圧監視システム。

【請求項 2】 前記各検出装置（10、20、30、40）は、動作時に間欠動作するようになっており、前記タイヤの空気圧の検出を行う間隔よりも長い間隔で前記データ送信タイミングが設定されていることを特徴とする請求項 1 に記載の車両用タイヤ空気圧監視システム。

【請求項 3】 前記各検出装置（10、20、30、40）は、前記検出したタイヤの空気圧が異常であることを判定すると、データ送信タイミングを短くするようになっていることを特徴とする請求項 1 または 2 に記載の車両用タイヤ空気圧監視システム。

【発明の詳細な説明】

【0001】

【発明の属する技術分野】 本発明は、車両における各タイヤの空気圧を監視するタイヤ空気圧監視システムに関する。

【0002】

【従来の技術および発明が解決しようとする課題】 従来、タイヤの空気圧および内部温度を検出してそのデータを電波で送信する検出装置を車両の各タイヤに設置し、送信されたデータを車体側に設置した監視装置で受信し、タイヤの異常を検知するとユーザーに警告を発するようにしたタイヤ空気圧監視システムが種々提案されている（例えば、特開平 8-244424 号公報、特開平 9-30220 号公報）。

【0003】 従来のタイヤ空気圧監視システムでは、各タイヤに設置された検出装置から検出したデータが定期的に監視装置に送信される。このとき、それぞれの検出装置のデータ送信タイミングが重なった場合には、監視装置側で正常にデータを受信できない場合が生じ得る。一旦、データ送信タイミングが重なると、ある一定間隔

でデータが送信されるため、次回以降もデータ送信タイミングが毎回重なることになり、監視装置でのデータの受信率が極端に低下する。

【0004】 特開平 9-30220 号公報には、タイマを用いてタイヤ空気圧を定期的に検出し、検出したデータを受信器（監視装置）に定期的に送信を行い、そのタイマの間隔をタイヤ毎にずらして、タイヤ毎の混信を防止するようにしたものが記載されている。しかしながら、タイマの時間を生成するための発振周波数の誤差等によってデータ送信タイミングが累積的にずれると、いずれはデータ送信間隔が重なって混信してしまう場合があり得る。

【0005】 また、この種のタイヤ空気圧監視システムにおいて、各タイヤに設置された検出装置を、内蔵した電池で動作させるようにした場合には、電力消費を低減して電池寿命を長くする必要がある。

【0006】 上記した特開平 9-30220 号公報には、タイマを用いてタイヤ空気圧を定期的にモニタするものが記載されているが、このものでは、車両が運転状態にない場合であってもタイヤ空気圧をモニタすることになり、電池寿命を長くするという点で不十分である。

【0007】 本発明は上記問題に鑑みため、検出装置に内蔵された電池の寿命を長くし、かつタイヤ毎に設置された検出装置のデータ送信タイミングが重ならないようにすることを目的とする。

【0008】

【課題を解決するための手段】 上記目的を達成するため、請求項 1 に記載の発明では、少なくともタイヤの空気圧を検出してそのデータを電波で送信する検出装置（10、20、30、40）が車両の各タイヤに設置され、送信されたデータを受信して各タイヤの空気圧を監視する監視装置（50）が車体側に設けられてなる車両用タイヤ空気圧監視システムにおいて、監視装置（50）は、車両の運転開始時に各検出装置（10、20、30、40）を一斉に動作起動させる動作起動信号を送信するとともに、車両の運転終了時に各検出装置（10、20、30、40）を一斉に動作停止させる動作停止信号を送信するようになっており、各検出装置（10、20、30、40）は、内蔵電池（11）を電源とするものであって、動作起動信号を受信すると動作起動し、この動作起動のタイミングを基準にして設定されたデータ送信タイミングでデータの送信を行い、また動作停止信号を受信すると動作停止するようになっていることを特徴としている。

【0009】 この発明によれば、車両の運転開始時、運転終了時に監視装置（50）から送信される動作起動信号、動作停止信号により各検出装置（10、20、30、40）を一斉に動作起動、動作停止させるようにしているから、検出装置（10、20、30、40）に内蔵された電池（11）の寿命を長くすることができ、ま

た動作起動のタイミングを基準にして設定されたデータ送信タイミングでデータの送信を行うようにしているから、データ送信タイミングの累積的なずれを防止し、各検出装置（１０、２０、３０、４０）のデータ送信タイミングが重なるのを防止することができる。

【００１０】また、請求項２に記載の発明のように、各検出装置（１０、２０、３０、４０）が間欠動作し、タイヤの空気圧の検出を行う間隔よりも長い間隔でデータ送信タイミングを設定するようにすれば、内蔵電池（１１）の寿命をより長くすることができる。

【００１１】また、請求項３に記載の発明のように、検出したタイヤの空気圧の異常を判定すると、データ送信タイミングを短くするようにすれば、監視装置（５０）にその異常を早くかつ確実に知らせることができる。

【００１２】なお、上記各手段の括弧内の符号は、後述する実施形態に記載の具体的手段との対応関係を示すものである。

【００１３】

【発明の実施の形態】図１に本発明の一実施形態に係る車両用タイヤ空気圧監視システムの部品構成を示し、図２にそれぞれの部品を車両に搭載した状態を示す。

【００１４】図２に示すように、タイヤの空気圧および内部温度を監視してデータを電波で送信する検出装置としての送受信機（電波式タイヤ内埋込型の通信手段）１０、２０、３０、４０が４つのタイヤの内部にそれぞれ設置され、各送受信機から送信されたデータを受信して各タイヤの空気圧、温度を監視する監視装置５０が車体側に設置されている。

【００１５】送受信機１０、２０、３０、４０の各々は、図１に示すように、内蔵電池１１を電源とし、圧力センサ１２、温度センサ１３によりタイヤ内の圧力、温度を検出（測定）し、設定された送信タイミングで測定したデータを監視装置５０に送信する。

【００１６】また、送受信機１０、２０、３０、４０の各々は、監視装置５０から送信される動作起動信号を受信すると動作起動し、タイヤ内の圧力、温度の測定および測定データの送信を行う動作を間欠的にを行い、監視装置５０から送信される動作停止信号を受信すると動作停止するようになっている。なお、上記した動作とは、タイヤ内の圧力、温度を測定しその測定データを送信する動作（機能）をいい、動作の停止中は、監視装置５０から動作起動信号が受信されたか否かの検出のみが間欠的に行われる。

【００１７】監視装置５０は、送受信機１０、２０、３０、４０から送信されるデータを受信するアンテナ５１、５２、５３、５４と、その受信したデータに基づいて各タイヤの状態を監視し、いずれかのタイヤに、空気圧低下、空気圧の異常増減、あるいはタイヤ内温度の異常上昇などの異常があることを判定すると、異常表示信号を出力するコントローラ（以下、ＥＣＵという）５５

と、このＥＣＵ５５からの異常表示信号を受けてユーザーに異常を知らせる表示を行う表示装置５６と、を備えている。また、ＥＣＵ５５は、車両の運転中にデータの受信およびそれに基づく異常判定を行うようになっており、車両が運転状態にあるか否かを、イグニッションスイッチ５７、シフトポジションスイッチ５８、エンジン回転数センサ５９からの信号に基づいて行う。

【００１８】図３に、ＥＣＵ５５の処理を示す。ＥＣＵ５５は、イグニッションスイッチ５７、シフトポジションスイッチ５８、エンジン回転数センサ５９からの信号に基づいて車両が運転状態になったか否かを判定する（Ｓ１１０）。車両が運転状態になったことを判定すると、送受信機１０、２０、３０、４０に動作起動信号を送信し（Ｓ１２０）、この後、送受信機１０、２０、３０、４０から送信されるデータを受信し、受信したデータに基づいて各タイヤの状態を監視し、いずれかのタイヤに異常があることを判定すると、異常表示信号を表示装置５６に出力する（Ｓ１５０）。

【００１９】また、送受信機１０、２０、３０、４０からの送信データ受信待機中に、イグニッションスイッチ５７、シフトポジションスイッチ５８、エンジン回転数センサ５９からの信号に基づいて車両が運転終了状態になったか否かを判定する（Ｓ１２０）。車両が運転終了状態になったことを判定すると、送受信機１０、２０、３０、４０に動作停止信号を送信し（Ｓ１３０）、再び車両が運転状態となるまで間欠動作を行う。このことにより、車両のバッテリーの消耗を抑えることができる。

【００２０】送受信機１０、２０、３０、４０の各々は、内蔵電池１１から電源供給を受けて作動するマイクロコンピュータ等のコンピュータ手段（図１に図示せず）を有し、図４に示す処理を行う。この処理は、内蔵電池１１の消耗を抑えるため、間欠的に行われる（Ｓ２００）。この間欠動作としては、動作起動信号の待機状態のときの間欠動作（Ｓ２１０）と動作要因の待機状態のときの間欠動作（Ｓ２２０）がある。

【００２１】動作起動信号の待機状態のときには、監視装置５０から送信される動作起動信号を受信したか否かが判定される（Ｓ２３０）。動作起動信号を受信したことが判定されると、圧力センサ１２、温度センサ１３からの信号による圧力データ、温度データの収集（Ｓ２５０）およびそのデータの送信（Ｓ２６０、２７０）を行う動作に移行する。すなわち、動作起動される。この場合、送受信機１０、２０、３０、４０の全てが一斉に動作起動される。

【００２２】また、図４中の処理にはは示されていないが、動作起動したタイミングを基準にしてデータ送信タイミングが設定される。このデータ送信タイミングは、各送受信機のデータ送信タイミングが重ならないように設定される。送信機１０、２０、３０、４０からは、予め定められたデータ送信の優先順位に従って一定間隔で

繰り返しデータが送信される。このような送信タイミングの設定により、ECU 55では、全ての送受信機からのデータを確実に受信することができる。また、動作起動のタイミングでデータ送信タイミングが設定されるため、送受信機の作動に用いる発振周波数の誤差等によってデータ送信タイミングが累積的にずれることを防止することができ、各送受信機のデータ送信タイミングが重なるのを確実に防止することができる。

【0023】動作起動後は、上記した間欠動作（S200）において、動作要因待機状態となる（S220）。この動作要因とは、データ収集タイミング、データ送信タイミング、動作停止信号受信である。データ送信タイミングは、データ収集タイミングよりも長い間隔で設定される。また、そのデータ送信タイミングは、収集したタイヤの空気圧、内部温度が異常であることが判定されると、それまでよりも短く設定される。

【0024】図4に示す処理では、データの収集（S250）およびデータの送信（S260、S270）が直列的に処理されるような形で示されているが、それぞれ、動作要因判定ステップ（S240）にてデータ収集タイミング、データ送信タイミングが判定されたときに個別に実行される。従って、データの収集は比較的短い周期で行われ、データの送信はそれよりも長い周期で行われる。また、タイヤ空気圧、内部温度が異常になると、短いタイミングで連続してデータが送信される。このことにより、監視装置50に異常を早くかつ確実に知らせることができる。

【0025】また、動作要因判定ステップ（S240）にて、動作停止信号受信の動作要因が判定されると、監

視装置50から送信される動作停止信号を受信したか否かが判定される。動作停止信号を受信したことが判定される（S280の判定がYESになる）と、動作停止として、動作起動信号の待機状態のときの間欠動作（S210）に移行する。この場合、送受信機10、20、30、40の全てが一斉に動作停止される。

【0026】このように各送受信機は、監視装置50から送信される動作起動信号、動作停止信号によって、動作起動、動作停止を行っているから、内蔵電池11の消耗を低減することができる。また、タイヤ空気圧、内部温度のデータの収集を例えば数十秒毎に実施し、収集時以外の状態では間欠動作を行い、また収集したデータが正常であれば送信タイミングを例えば数十分毎とするようにすれば、電池11の消耗をより低減することができる。

【図面の簡単な説明】

【図1】本発明の一実施形態に係る車両用タイヤ空気圧監視システムの部品構成を示す図である。

【図2】送受信機および監視装置の車両への搭載状態を示す図である。

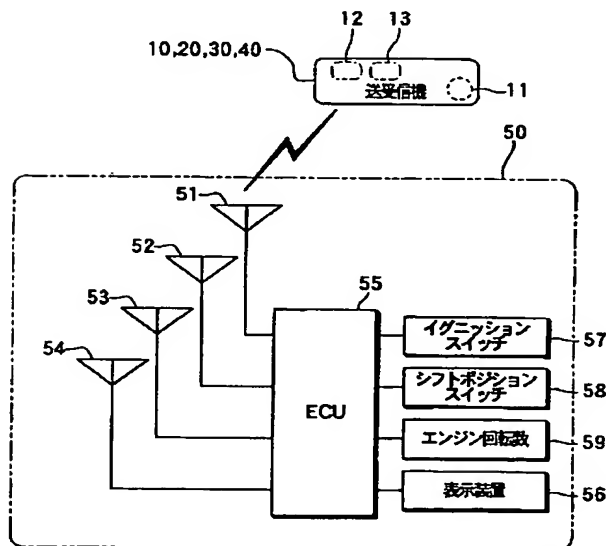
【図3】ECUの処理を示すフローチャートである。

【図4】各送受信機での処理を示すフローチャートである。

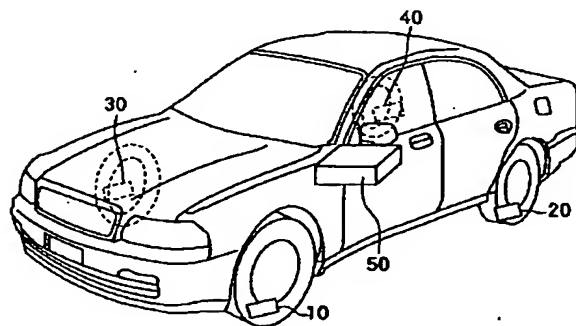
【符号の説明】

10、20、30、40…送受信機、11…内蔵電池、12…圧力センサ、13…温度センサ、50…監視装置、51～54…アンテナ、55…ECU、56…表示装置、57…イグニッションスイッチ、58…シフトポジションスイッチ、59…エンジン回転数センサ、59…エンジン回転数センサ。

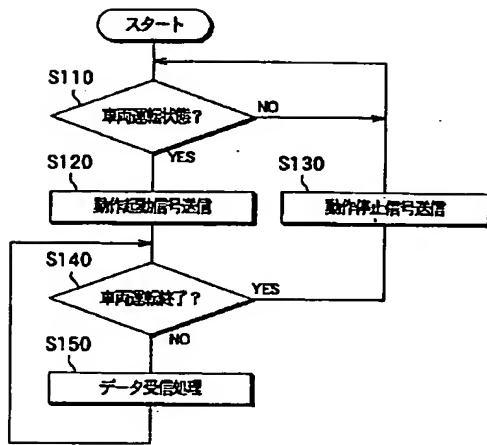
【図1】



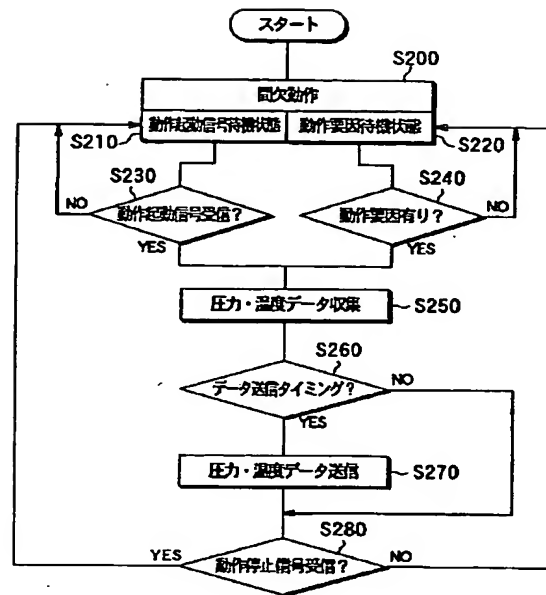
【図2】



【図3】



【図4】



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